

OTTO J. REICH

Since 2004, Otto Juan Reich has been President of Otto Reich Associates, LLC, of Washington, DC, a consulting firm that provides international government relations, trade and investment advice to US and multinational clients. Amb. Reich has spent most of his professional life in international relations, primarily related to Latin America and the Caribbean, in private enterprise, government, and the U.S. military.

From 2001 to 2004 Amb. Reich served the George W. Bush Administration in two Presidential appointment positions: first as Assistant Secretary of State for Western Hemisphere Affairs, reporting to Secretary of State Colin Powell, and subsequently in the National Security Council as President Bush's Special Envoy for Western Hemisphere Initiatives, reporting to Dr. Condoleezza Rice.

From 1990 to 2001, Ambassador Reich was a private consultant, advising clients on international government relations, market access and strategic planning, first as a partner in the Brock Group (1990-1996) and later as President of RMA International (1996-2001). In 1991 and 1992, as a private citizen and at the request of President George H. W. Bush, Ambassador Reich served as Alternate U.S. Representative to the UN Human Rights Commission in Geneva.

In the 1980's, Reich served President Ronald Reagan in three posts: From 1986 to 1989 as U.S. Ambassador to Venezuela, for which he was awarded the highest commendations of both the State Department and the Republic of Venezuela. From 1983 to 1986 as Special Advisor to the Secretary of State he directed the Office of Public Diplomacy for Latin America and the Caribbean, which received the Department's Meritorious Honor Award. And from 1981 to 1983, he was Assistant Administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) in charge of all U.S. economic assistance to Latin America and the Caribbean.

Prior to joining the US Government in 1981, Reich served as Washington Director of the Council of the Americas (1976 to 1981); Community Development Coordinator for the City of Miami (1975 to 1976); International Representative of the State of Florida Department of Commerce (1973 to 1975); and staff assistant in the U.S. House of Representatives (1971 to 1972).

Ambassador Reich received a Bachelor's Degree in International Studies from the University of North Carolina (1966) and a Master's Degree in Latin American Studies from Georgetown University (1973). His military service (1966-1969) included duty as a lieutenant in the U.S. Army's 3rd Civil Affairs Group (Airborne), Panama Canal Zone. Reich appears regularly on US and Latin American media. From 1998 to 2001, he was co-host of CNN International's "Choque de Opiniones," a Spanish-language version of CNN's "Crossfire." Among the awards Reich has received are the State Department's Superior Honor Award (1989 and 1991), the US Army Commendation Medal (1969), and the Fund for American Studies' Walter Judd Freedom Award (2012).